



Everything you need to know about EFMP

Are All Active Duty Soldiers Required to Enroll in the EFMP if They Have an EFM?

The following Soldiers with EFMs are required to enroll in the EFMP: 1) Active Army 2) U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Soldiers in the USAR Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Program. Mobilized and deployed Soldiers are not eligible for enrollment in the EFMP. 3) Army National Guard (ARNG) AGR personnel serving under authority of Title 10, United States Code and Title 32, United States Code. Soldiers who are

members of the Army Married Couples Program will both enroll in the EFMP when they have a Family member that qualifies. This process will ensure that the assignment manager of each sponsor considers the Family's special needs.

Benefits of EFMP Enrollment:

Enrollment allows assignment managers at military personnel agencies to consider the documented medical needs of exceptional Family members in the CONUS assignment process (educational needs are taken into consideration only in an OCONUS assignment). When possible, Soldiers are assigned to an area where the medical and special education needs of their exceptional Family member can be met. This will depend upon a valid personnel requirement for the Soldier's grade, specialty and eligibility for the tour. All Soldiers are still eligible for worldwide and unaccompanied assignments. All local school systems in the continental U.S. and its territories are required by public laws to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), to include the provision of special education

EFMP Special Needs Advisor/Case Coordinator:

The EFMP Special Needs Advisor/Case is Responsible for identifying qualifying conditions, completing enrollments, and updating enrollments. **Ed Westover is the Special Needs Advisor/Case Coordinator for Fort Riley. He is located at Irwin Army Community Hospital, room 1G100 beside Medical Home #4 and his phone number is (785) 240-77543 and Fax# 785-240-8373.**

ACS EFMP Family and Community Support Services

Identification of Exceptional Family Members: Often, Soldiers and their Family members are unsure of what conditions qualify for enrollment in the EFMP. Our team can help you determine if a specific condition qualifies for enrollment into the program, and help get you started with the enrollment process and get you connected with the enrollment office at Evans Army Community Hospital.

Information and Referral:

Have a question about how the program works? Need to know how to obtain referrals to specialty medical providers for your Family member? Ever wonder if the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Fair Housing Act applies to your situation? Want to know how to get information on the Respite Care Program? We have the answers! And if we can't immediately answer your question, we will find the answer or an appropriate point of contact for you and ensure we get the information to you in a timely manner.

Housing:

Fort Riley Housing is privatized and is operated by Corvias Military Living. The housing waiting lists vary based on rank and Family size. Many Families assume because of their EFMP enrollment they receive prioritized housing, this is NOT true. They are required to complete a request for a medical exception to policy that is a result of a medical condition of the sponsor and/or any of his/her dependents.

Examples (not limited to the list below):

1. SM requests to be accelerated on the waiting list due to a fragile medical condition of a family member and resulting need to be close to the medical treatment facility.
2. SM requests to move to a larger home or to a single level home due to a medical condition.
3. SM requests ADA modifications (estimated over \$500).
4. SM requests to live in a particular school district for the benefit of a special needs child.
5. SM requests to move to a different home due to allergies, etc.

For required documents and additional information contact Corvias Military Living.

Advocacy:

Sometimes, navigating life with a Family member who has special health needs or concerns and/or special education needs, can be overwhelming and intimidating. An advocate is someone who can educate you about things and help you speak up about what you want and need. An advocate can also talk to other people and other organizations with you, whether it be an Army connected organization (chain of command, housing office, etc.) or an off post organization (your child's school, a support agency, etc.). Our team is ready to assist when an assessment of your needs determines that advocacy is warranted.

Systems Navigation:

Systems Navigation is a Family and community support component of the EFMP that connects Families with special needs to the systems of care they need, both on and off the installation. The EFMP Systems Navigators are knowledgeable about the systems of care used by Families with special needs. The primary role of a Systems Navigator is to navigate Families through the available systems of care by assessing EFM/Family strengths/needs; developing a plan to reach goals; referring to appropriate agencies/organizations; and providing advocacy while teaching and strengthening self-advocacy skills. EFMP Systems Navigators reach out to Families to offer support services, particularly during transition, and work closely with our EFMP medical counterparts to accept referrals for those Families who have received new and/or complex diagnoses that require multiple support services. Referrals for Systems Navigation services are accepted from a variety of sources and Families can self-refer by contacting the EFMP office.

Assistance Locating Disability Specific Support Groups, Recreational Activities, and Community Support Agencies:

Our team can assist you with locating and connecting with available support groups and recreational programs, both on and off the installation. We provide linkage to local resources, state and national organizations, and information regarding agencies that provide specialized services, as well as general community support information.

Coordinate Appropriate Placement of Children with Special Needs into CYSS Programs:

The Special Needs Accommodation Process (SNAP) Team is a multi-disciplinary team established to explore installation child care and youth supervision options for children and/or youth that have medical diagnoses that reflect life-threatening conditions, functional limitations, or behavioral and/or psychological conditions. The Team, of which the child/ youth's parent/guardian is a valued member, is responsible for determining placement options within Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) programs considering the feasibility of CYSS program accommodations and availability of services to support child and/or youth needs. The Team meets on a weekly basis to recommend a placement setting that accommodates to the extent possible the child and/or youth's individual needs. The Team cannot discuss placement options for a child/youth if the child/youth's parent/guardian is not present to participate in the meeting. The process begins with registration of the child/youth at CYSS and culminates in a SNAP meeting if deemed necessary by the Army Public Health Nurse (APHN).

Administrative Support/Assistance with Compassionate Reassignments, Deletion/Deferment of Assignments, and Stabilization Requests:

Some circumstances relating to an Exceptional Family Member's health, safety or development may warrant a Soldier's request for a compassionate reassignment, deletion of orders, deferment of a report date, or stabilization at current duty location. Our team is skilled in understanding the qualification criteria for such requests, the required Department of the Army forms for these requests, as well as the documentation required to support such requests. We are happy to provide guidance, assistance, and even provide advocacy if required if a Soldier feels his/her circumstances might qualify for one of these actions.

Assistance with Relocation/Transition:

If you are new to Fort Riley, welcome to "The Home of the Big Red One!" As you in-processed, you might remember completing required EFMP forms. Once our office receives these forms from the in-processing office, you will receive a welcome email or phone call from our office explaining our services and how to reach us. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any assistance you might need or stop by just to say hello! When it comes time for you to leave Fort Riley for a new duty location, your gaining installation will be notified that you are arriving so any supports you may need will be in place upon arrival. Of course, this can only be successful when you follow protocol for out-processing and complete the required EFMP documents at your levy brief or if you notify us personally of any needs you may have during the transition process. We are standing by ready to ease the stress of transition! Please ensure you check in with your gaining installation's Army Community Service (ACS) EFMP Manager for further assistance upon your arrival.

Respite Care:

The EFMP Respite Care Program is community support service that provides a temporary rest period for Family members responsible for regular care of persons with disabilities. Care may be provided in the EFMP respite user's home or other settings such as special needs camps and enrichment programs. It is time limited based on the EFM medical condition and availability of funding. An eligible EFM may qualify for up to 40 hours per month. Eligible Family members must be enrolled in the EFMP and may qualify for EFMP Respite Care if there is documentation of a severe chronic medical condition or significant medical needs. A severe chronic medical condition is defined as a serious medical condition that persists for greater than 6 months and requires the coordinated intervention of multiple primary and specialty care providers for evaluation, treatment and maintenance of health. Severe chronic conditions are often not curable and may carry a poor clinical prognosis. Significant medical needs are defined as one or more medical conditions that require extensive coordination of care by health care providers, ancillary services and/ or durable medical equipment

in order to sustain a reasonable level of health. The EFM's medical provider must substantiate the need for EFMP Respite Care. The application process begins at the ACS EFMP office where application forms, as well as documents to be completed by the EFM's medical provider, can be obtained. Following proper completion of those forms, an assessment interview will take place with EFMP staff. The EFM's information will be presented before the EFMP Respite Care Panel, consisting of the EFMP Manager, ACS Director, Garrison Commander (or designee), Family Life Chaplain and EFMP Systems Navigator, who reviews the information provided and documented medical needs, and recommends approval or disapproval of all submissions for respite to the Garrison Commander who is the decision authority.